

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY: IO:DTELLEEN

APPROVED BY: IO:DTELLEEN

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R 251801Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169852

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO MEXICO FROM USUN AUG 24

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2978

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN MX EGEN

SUBJ: AMB SCALI'S MEETING WITH FONMIN RABASA: CHARTER  
OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES

1. AT FONMIN RABASA'S REQUEST, AMB SCALI (ACCOMPANIED BY  
AMB BENNETT AND MISOFF) MET WITH HIM AND MEXICAN PERMREP  
GARCIA-ROBLES AT UN HEADQUARTERS AUG 23.

2. FONMIN RABASA EXPRESSED DELIGHT WITH APPOINTMENT OF  
HIS "GOOD FRIEND HENRY KISSINGER" AND SAID HE HAD PERSONALLY  
TELEPHONED CONGRATULATIONS YESTERDAY. FONMIN IS GREATLY  
PLEASED OVER SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF SALINITY NEGOTIATIONS.  
HE REFERRED TO MR. BROWNELL AS "FINE NEGOTIATOR" BUT WENT  
ON TO GIVE KISSINGER CREDIT FOR REMOVING FINAL ROADBLOCKS  
AND SAID END RESULT DUE LATTER'S TIMELY INTERVENTION. HE  
SAID MAIN REASON FOR REQUESTING APPOINTMENT WITH AMB SCALI,  
HOWEVER, WAS TO ENLIST HIS SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF DRAFT  
CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES WHICH MEXICO PLANS TO  
SUBMIT TO FORTHCOMING UNGA.

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3. FONMIN SAID THAT MEXICO CONCEIVES OF CHARTER AS "MIDDLE OF THE ROAD, COMMON SENSE DOCUMENT WHICH WILL BENEFIT ALL MANKIND". HE URGED STRONGLY THAT US BACK CHARTER AND ARGUED US HAS OPPORTUNITY TO "PICK UP THE BANNER AS A CHAMPION OF THIRD WORLD ASPIRATIONS". RABASA NOTED THAT PRES NIXON, IN HIS FOREIGN POLICY MESSAGE THIS YEAR, HAD REAFFIRMED US INTEREST IN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH LA. RABASA SUGGESTED US SUPPORT OF CHARTER WOULD CONVINCE LA'S IN PARTICULAR THAT PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT IS INDEED US POLICY.

4. FONMIN SAID THAT, "SPEAKING VERY FRANKLY", USG ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHARTER SO FAR "HAD NOT BEEN TOO COOPERATIVE", PARTICULARLY AT RECENT UNCTAD MEETING. HE SPECULATED THAT USG PROBABLY FEARED THAT CHARTER WOULD SPELL OUT "RIGHTS FOR THE UNDER-DEVELOPED AND DUTIES FOR THE DEVELOPED NATIONS". WHILE ADMITTING THAT SOME OF MEXICO'S "FRIENDS" WERE TAKING VERY RADICAL POSITIONS WITH REGARD TO CHARTER LANGUAGE (WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE TONED DOWN), HE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT MEXICO INTERESTED IN A "BALANCED AND MODERATE DOCUMENT". RABASA URGED USG NOT TO ADOPT "PASSIVE ATTITUDE" TOWARDS CHARTER AT FORTHCOMING UNGA AND ASKED AMB SCALI TO TRANSMIT THIS AS "A REQUEST FROM MY PRESIDENT TO YOUR PRESIDENT." HE INSISTED THAT US HAS OPPORTUNITY HERE TO SEIZE LEADERSHIP ON ISSUE POPULAR TO ENTIRE THIRD WORLD AND TO MAKE ISSUE ITS OWN.

5. RABASA ADDED THAT MEXICO NOW CONSIDERING WHETHER TO RECOMMEND REFERRAL OF CHARTER ITEM TO SECOND (ECONOMIC) COMITE, SIXTH (LEGAL) OR AN AD HOC JOINT COMITE DRAWN FROM BOTH BODIES. (FYI: (MEXICO WHICH ALWAYS PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE IN LA GROUP, WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL INFLUENCE IN 28TH GA AS CHAIRMAN SIXTH COMITE. MEXICAN COOPERATION ON KOREAN ITEM ALSO DESIRABLE. END FYI) IN ANY CASE, MEXICO HOPED THAT UNGA'S CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER WOULD "DIMINISH AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT."

6. AMB SCALI SAID THAT, AS A RESULT OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH PRES ECHEVARRIA AND FONMIN IN MEXICO LAST MARCH, HE HAD BECOME DEEPLY INTERESTED IN CHARTER AND HAD REPORTED FULLY TO THE PRESIDENT. USG CONSIDERS IT A NOVEL CONCEPT. BECAUSE OF THE CHARTER'S WORLD-WIDE RAMIFICATIONS, USG HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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SO FAR TAKEN A CAUTIOUS APPROACH IN ORDER TO EXAMINE IT CAREFULLY. THIS CAUTION SHOULD NOT BE MISTAKEN FOR NEGATIVISM. AMB SCALI CAUTIONED THAT MANY US CORPORATIONS ARE SOMEWHAT NERVOUS ABOUT THE CHARTER'S IMPLICATIONS AND WOULD PRESSURE USG IN ONE DIRECTION. NEVERTHELESS, USG WAS ALSO MOVED BY ITS DESIRE TO FIND SOLUTIONS FOR THE GREAT PROBLEMS OF POVERTY IN THE WORLD. THEREFORE, IF CHARTER CAN EMERGE AS A MODERATE DOCUMENT BY OBJECTIVE STANDARDS, WE WILL BE POSITIVE

SINCE US "DOES NOT SIMPLE STAND ON STATUS QUO." AMB SCALI  
PROMISED TO RAISE FONMIN'S REQUEST IN WASHINGTON AT ONCE.

7. FONMIN RABASA CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD ATTEND UNGA PLENARY  
IN ORDER TO DELIVER A SPEECH DEVOTED MAINLY TO THE CHARTER.

8. COMMENT: WE ARE OF COURSE WELL AWARE OF POTENTIAL DANGER  
FOR US IN RABASA'S CHARTER, WHICH WILL BE MUCH DEBATED IN  
MONTHS AHEAD. CONCEPT, HOWEVER, IS ONE WHOSE HOUR IS NEAR  
IF IN FACT IT HAS NOT ALREADY COME. TO MAXIMIZE OUR PROSPECT  
FOR INFLUENCING CONTENT OF CHARTER, USUN BELIEVES WE MUST  
TAKE FORTHCOMING POSITION ON A MATTER ON WHICH ONE OF OUR  
CLOSEST NEIGHBORS PUTS SO MUCH IMPORTANCE AND IS SO DETERMINED.  
AN IMAGE OF RIGID NEGATIVISM IS NOT REPEAT NOT IN US INTEREST.  
POSITIVE POSTURE OF FLEXIBILITY TEMPERED BY PRAGMATIC CAUTION  
WILL SERVE US WELL ON THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE, AND IS COMPATIBLE  
WITH OUR BROADER INTERESTS AT UN. SOME FORM OF CHARTER IS  
BOUND TO RESULT FROM CURRENT CONSULTATIONS, AND CONCEPT IS AS  
POPULAR AMONG UN ELECTORATE AS HOME AND MOTHER. IF BY CAREFUL  
NEGOTIATIONS WE CAN WORK OUT A SEAT NEXT TO THE DRIVER, WE  
SHOULD RIDE THIS BAND WAGON.

BENNETT  
UNQUOTE RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973STATE169852  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** IO:DTELLEEN  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS TELLEEN  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730815/aaaaaknq.tel  
**Line Count:** 138  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ORIGIN IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02-Oct-2001 by eisnerah>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMB SCALI'S MEETING WITH FONMIN RABASA: CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES  
**TAGS:** EGEN, MX, UN  
**To:** GENEVA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005